[President]

(Another point too may be mentioned. When the budget is under debate, the individual merits of an officer do not arise, though, as a part of the debate on policy, his work may be criticised. That there should be such and such office (if it be a votable office) may be discussed, but not who may hold that office, if there be such an office.

In regard to non-votable offices, even the question whether there should be an office or not does not directly arise though, perhaps, in a general way, it may be stated in the debate that the Dapartment is run on too expensive lines because of high offices.)

For calculating the number of hours to be allotted for the voting of demands, a day will be taken as from 12 noon to 6 P. M. One hour being available for question time, and another hour (2 to 3 P. M.) as lunch interval, the remaining four hours will be treated as one full day and two hours as half a day. If the whole of the first hour is not taken up for questions and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of demands for grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted to any particular Demand but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more demands.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

PRESIDENT: I have received certain notices of motions for the adjournment of the House. They are :—

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*) .

"I beg leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance namely the serious situation caused by the prevalence of dysentery in the coastal villages of Chirayinkil and Trivandrum taluks"

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvella*) :

"I beg leave to move for the adjournment of business of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the serious situation brought about in the country as the result of misuse of the powers under the Egg Control Order and the consequent loss and difficulties to which both the licencees and producers in Travancore are recently put to, with special reference to the supply of egg to Ceylon."

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

"I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz. the serious situation brought about in the country as the result of the most inequitable and irregular methods of distribution of the available quantity of kerosene oil among the people by the officers entrusted with the duty and the consequent difficulties and inconvenience to which the public are recently put to."

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI :

"I beg to move an adjournment motion to discuss an urgent matter of public importance viz , the recent arrest of some prominent members of labour organisations in the country.

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The Secretary of the Factory Workers' Union, Quilon, was arrested on 25-12-1119. A notice by the Chief Secretary to the Government was served on him asking him to show cause why he should not be proceeded against for a speech that he delivered on 10-12-1119. He replied that the speech was an *extempore* one and as such he could not exactly remember the words used on that occasion and that he would be able to give an explanation only if the passages objectionable in eyes of Government were pointed out to him. And the Government instead of pointing out the objectionable passages caused him to be arrested and detained. The Vice-President and two other prominent workers of the Alwaye Factory Workers Union were also arrested on the 28th of Karkadagom 1119 If these people have done anything against the laws of the country they ought to have been proceeded against according to the ordinary or normal laws and there is no justification to invoke the special provisions of emergency laws at present. The present practice of arrest and detention is an infringement on the fundamental rights of citizens."

I may at once rule out the last motion on two or three grounds. For the information of the House I will point out the rules laid down in this behalf :—

"(1) not more than one such motion shall be made in the same sitting ;

(2) not more than one matter may be discussed on the same motion and the motion must be restricted to a specific matter of recent Occurrence;;

(3) the motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session ;

(4) the motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration, or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given ;

(5) the motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved."

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the rules just now cited the Dewan may disallow any motion for adjournment on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interests, and on his doing so, no further discussion of the motion shall take place."

I am ruling out Mr. Tampi's motion on the following grounds. Firstly it is not a motion at all. It is a statement of a case and it does not refer to any matter of urgent public importance. More fundamental than that is the point that the facts stated are not correct. The gentleman, referred to in the motion made a speech in which he said that "blood must be shed" as blood was shed in Quilon on a previous occasion. It was an incitement to the labourers to rise and shed blood. That speech came to the notice of Government. The Inspector-General of Police was instructed to send for Mr. Divakaran and point out those passages and make it perfectly clear to him that he must apologise for that expression of opinion failing which he would either be prosecuted or detained. No doubt he said, first of all, that he did not remember what he said. He wanted to know whether a verbatim copy of the speech was preserved. He put a number of questions to the Inspector-General of Police on that matter. From these, the Government were satisfied that the speech referred to was actually made and came to the conclusion that such a demand was not quite consistent with the principle adopted by the labour party or political party in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President].

this country or anywhere else. So he was ordered to be detained. That detention was in pursuance of the inherent powers of Government, under the Defence of Travancore Rules. The Defence of Travancore Rules cannot be questioned on the floor of this House. On these grounds I disallow the motion.

So far as the other motions are concerned, I am sure the honourable members will realise that I do not minimise the importance of any of those questions; if they realise at the same time that if one such adjournment motion is allowed to be discussed here, it means and involves curtailment of the debate which is going to ensue. Every one of those points can be raised in the general debate and will have to be answered by Government. The procedure by way of adjournment is really not apposite or pertinent at this time of the general debate and the voting on demands for Grants. It is quite open to the members to raise these very matters by means of cut motions either on the discussion relating to the Food Department or on the General Administration Demand. There is also the fact that no further time than two days could be allotted for the purpose of general discussion and if these motions are allowed to be discussed on either of these days, two hours will be taken up by them and to that extent, the general discussion debate will stand curtailed. So, if the honourable members still want these adjournment motions to be discussed rather than have a general debate, I shall allow that view provided the honourable members agree to that view. As I said, no doubt they are matters of urgent public importance. It is however a matter for House to decide.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, if the Government will kindly go into the questions relating to the respective adjournment motions, I have no objection to withdraw my motions.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will realise that the Government have been doing nothing else for the last two months.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: My view is that the Government may look into those questions.

PRESIDENT: About the attitude of the military authorities and naval authorities, I thought I have made the position clear in my address. The honourable members of this House will see that we strongly disapprove of the manner in which the military authorities, the South Eastern Asia command especially, are now placing orders for the purpose of eggs. It is not that the Travancore Government want to give the order for eggs to A or B. The orders are placed by the Army and Naval authorities direct to A or B and we are forced to sell to them. This matter has been pointed out to the Government of India. The procedure is vitiated. Such irriegularities exist in regard to the purchase of timber. What the answer of the Government of India will be, what decision they will come to, I cannot say. In the circumstances, if the honourable members want to spend an hour or two for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

these adjournment motions, it is for them to decide. I will be guided by the House. In respect of inequitable and irregular methods followed in the distribution of kerosene, it is entirely an internal matter.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: I beg to withdraw my motion, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I shall bring the subject matter of my motions during the general debate.

PRESIDENT: The Financial Secretary will now make the statement.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, under Rule 76 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I beg to lay on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government under Section 32 of Act II of 1108.

Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
I. 1. Customs.	575	For Anchal Charges.
2. Excise	1,728	do.
do.	4,318	For pay of menials of the Excise Department.
do.	220	For payment of rent to the Excise Division Offices.
do. (a) Superintendence	1,300	For travelling allowance
do.	850	For telephone charges under contingencies.
do.	1,450	For office expenses and miscellaneous and tour charges.
do.	7,000	For equipment and clothing — contingencies.

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